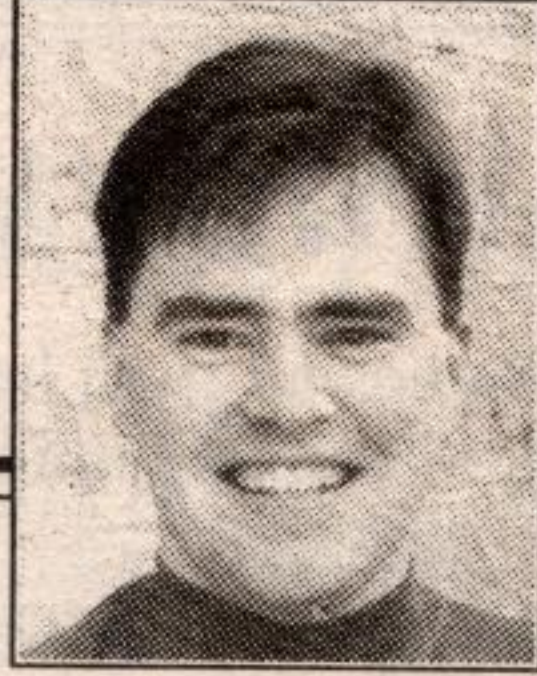


EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



One step forward ...

After nearly 350 years of white domination, South Africa has held its first all-race elections — and the world seems to be a brighter place.

Nelson Mandela's ANC Party got most of the vote, president F.W. de Klerk (National Party leader) has accepted defeat and expressed his "optimism" for the future, and foreign observers have declared the election "essentially free and fair."

In a rather inspiring display of sensibility, the black radical PAC group was slaughtered at the polls, while "hawkish" Hennis Kriel, seen by many as a symbol of the *old* white-dominated South Africa, was saying that reconciliation with his opponents would be his first priority as premier of Western Cape.

If these events don't send shivers down your spine (which they should), you at least have to smile. This election has been a symbol of reconciliation for all South Africans.

Yes, we all should celebrate, for this is more than a victory for Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress; it is a victory for humanity over inhumanity, for right over wrong.

It is a victory for those who do believe that all men and women have the right to self-determination in government and personal liberty under the rule of law.

Pallo Jordan, ANC spokesman, said it best. For two straight nights at a banquet hall in Johannesburg, party members had waited — in vain — for a Mandela victory speech. But the moment still had not come. Said Jordan: "Since last night, we've been boogieing on the second floor. We'll boogie again tonight, though with far less expectations than we had last night, but we'll boogie anyway, because it's about time we did."

One step forward, one step back ...

Still there are those hate-filled people who would have you believe that we'll never live together in peace with our brothers and sisters. Not in South Africa ... but Toronto's west-end.

U.S.-based Nation of Islam minister Khalid Abdul Muhammad, in a telephone address to 300 cheering people on Sunday, insisted that whites and Jews are the "enemies and the oppressors" of the black race.

Muhammad had to speak by phone to his Toronto audience after Canadian immigration officials said he would be turned back at the border because there was reason to believe he would violate the hate provisions in the Criminal Code and because he has a criminal record (a 1987 fraud conviction).

Muhammad made headlines in November when he referred to Jews as "bloodsuckers" and called the Pope "an old, no-good cracker."

On the weekend, Muhammad's warm-up act was none other than Metro black activist Dudley Laws. What a joke!

The TV news report I watched after the event featured a black woman, frustrated that Muhammad could not appear in person, threatening that blacks would start "dropping" whites if things didn't change. She warned that the recent murder at Just Desserts was "a good example" of what was to come.

Now Muhammad is promising his followers that he will defy the authorities and come to Canada to speak within the next month.

Stay tuned.



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

Drop it by our office at 12 Church St. E.
or fax it to us at 853-5040



LETTERS

Let's make an effort

To the Editor,

I have walked down Hwy. 25 for the past five years — to and from downtown Acton — and daily I am distressed by the litter that is tossed onto the sidewalk: broken glass from beer bottles, cans from pop, and all types of paper from chips, news and more. It is not only unsightly, it is also very unsafe.

We all know we should not litter and when we were younger we were keen to clear up the trash. Now many of us add to it. But it's the little ones walking along side their mothers or some other adult, who see this garbage and are inquisitive.

Children can get cut by the glass

and badly hurt by the sharp edge of a bent pop can. As one proceeds towards town, there is the creek that flows under Hwy. 25 which seems to be the unofficial Acton garbage dump.

The Federal government is making moves to clean up the major lakes and waterways but I feel we should clean up our own area and teach all Actonites to keep Acton clean.

This is not only Hwy. 25, but our own back yards, sidewalks, roads, Prospect Park and Fairy Lake, which could be an area to be proud of but at the moment the latter two areas are as dangerous as Hwy. 25.

Let us make an effort to keep litter in the garbage bins around town. It is not hard to carry an empty bottle or can that far. For those who toss trash out of their car to litter our town, I would sure like to see in their back yard!

Sally Miller
Kingham Road

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

A Weekly Round-Up of Coming Events in Acton & Area

May 5, Thursday — 1:30 and 7 pm: Juno Award Winner Jack Grunsky presents "Imaginary Window Day" at St. Joseph's School. Tickets are \$1, students; \$2, adults; \$5, family.

May 6, Friday: P.D. day at local public schools. The kids are out so be sure to drive carefully.

May 6, Friday — 10 am: Bake Sale for Lakeside Chapter I.O.D.E. Join us at 14 Mill St. E. beside The Towne Friar.

May 7, Saturday — 8:30 am: It's here! Acton Baptist Church's great garage and bake sale. This is the day to come for delicious baked goods, hot dogs and lots of bargains. Rain or shine.

May 7, Saturday — 7 pm: Acton School of Dance in conjunction with Acton Music Studio will showcase original music composed, choreographed and danced by students of both studios. St. Alban's Church Hall. Admission is free but a donation to Acton FoodShare would be appreciated. For information call Bob Daigneault at 853-4104 or Susanne Keith at 853-0390.

May 7, Saturday — 8 pm: Dance at the Acton Legion, sponsored by the Cribbage League. Just \$5 per couple.

May 9, 11, 16, 18, Mondays, Wednesdays — 6:30 to 9:30 pm: St. John Ambulance Standard First Aid Course. For more information, please call Yvon Essiembre at 853-4889.

May 14, Saturday — 9 am to noon: Acton's IGA is hosting "the Great IGA Hometown Spring Clean-Up." Participants are to arrive at the IGA and will be given garbage bags and a section of town to clean. Clean-up will be followed by free hot dogs and pop back at the IGA.

THE ACTON Tanner

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